

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



2011 National Listing of Fish Advisories (NLFA)

2011 Advisory Listing

The 2011 NLFA database identifies 4,821 waterbodies under advisory in 50 states, the District of Columbia, two of the four U.S. Territories, and 5 Native American tribes. The number of waterbodies under advisory represents:

- 42% of the Nation's total lake acres (excluding the Great Lakes); approximately 17.7 million lake acres
- 36% of the Nation's total river miles; approximately 1.36 million river miles
- 42% of the Nation's contiguous coastal waters (79% including Alaska and Hawaii)
- 100% of the Great Lakes and their connecting waters

Thirty-seven states (including the District of Columbia) had statewide advisories in effect in 2011.

In addition, 2% of the Nation's river miles and 10% of the Nation's lake acres had safe eating guidelines in effect in 2011.



Increased Monitoring by States

Since the 1970s, states have monitored for contaminants in fish in more and more of their waters. Where they find high levels of contaminants, they issue fish consumption advisories.

- As a result, increases in advisories result primarily from increased sampling of previously untested waters and are not necessarily due to increased levels or frequency of contamination.
- There are more advisories in effect in 2011 than in 2010. This does not mean that contaminant levels in fish are increasing nationwide, but rather that states are doing more monitoring.
- At the same time, EPA develops – and states implement – environmental regulations designed to reduce environmental pollutants into the waters, and we will continue to work to reduce emissions.

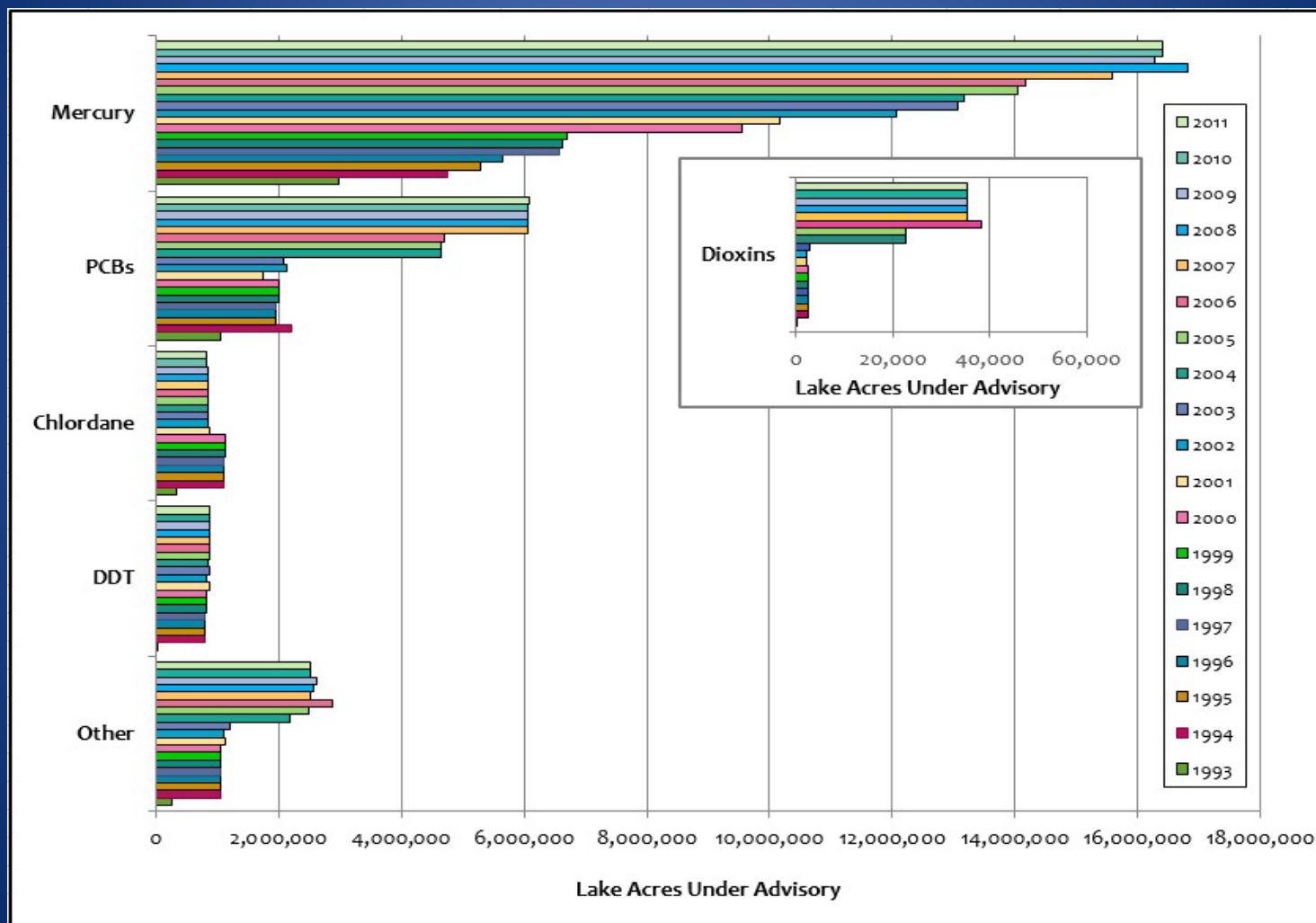
Bioaccumulative Pollutants

Although current advisories in the United States have been issued for 34 different pollutants, most advisories involve five primary bioaccumulative contaminants:

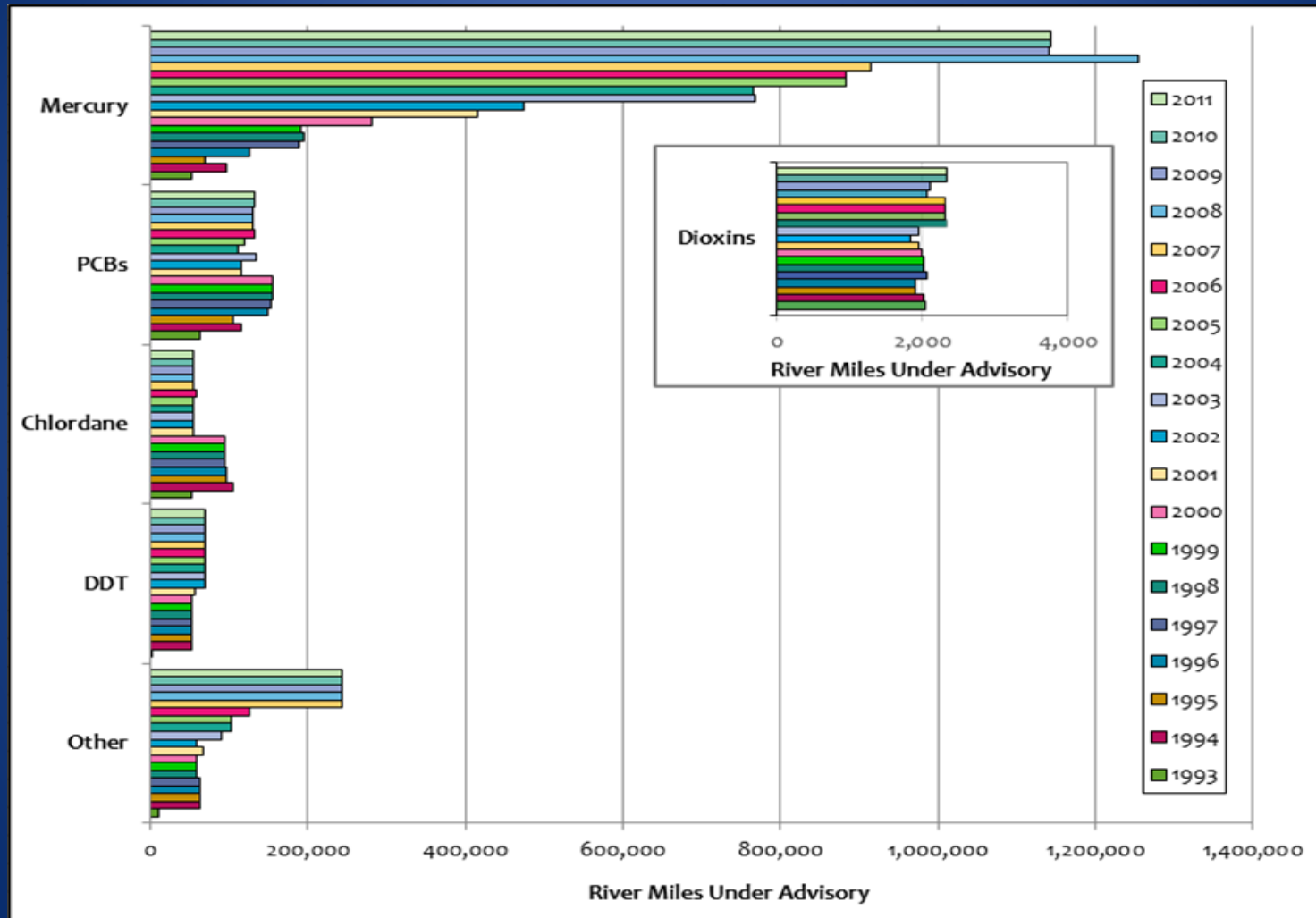
- **Mercury** 3,921 advisories in 2011 (up from 3,710 in 2010)
- **PCBs** 1,102 advisories in 2011 (up from 1,084 in 2010)
- **Chlordane** 60 advisories in 2011 (no change from 60 in 2010)
- **Dioxins** 129 advisories in 2011 (up from 128 in 2010)
- **DDT** 67 advisories in 2011 (up from 58 in 2010)

An increase in advisories issued by states generally reflects an increase in the number of assessments of contaminants in fish tissues.

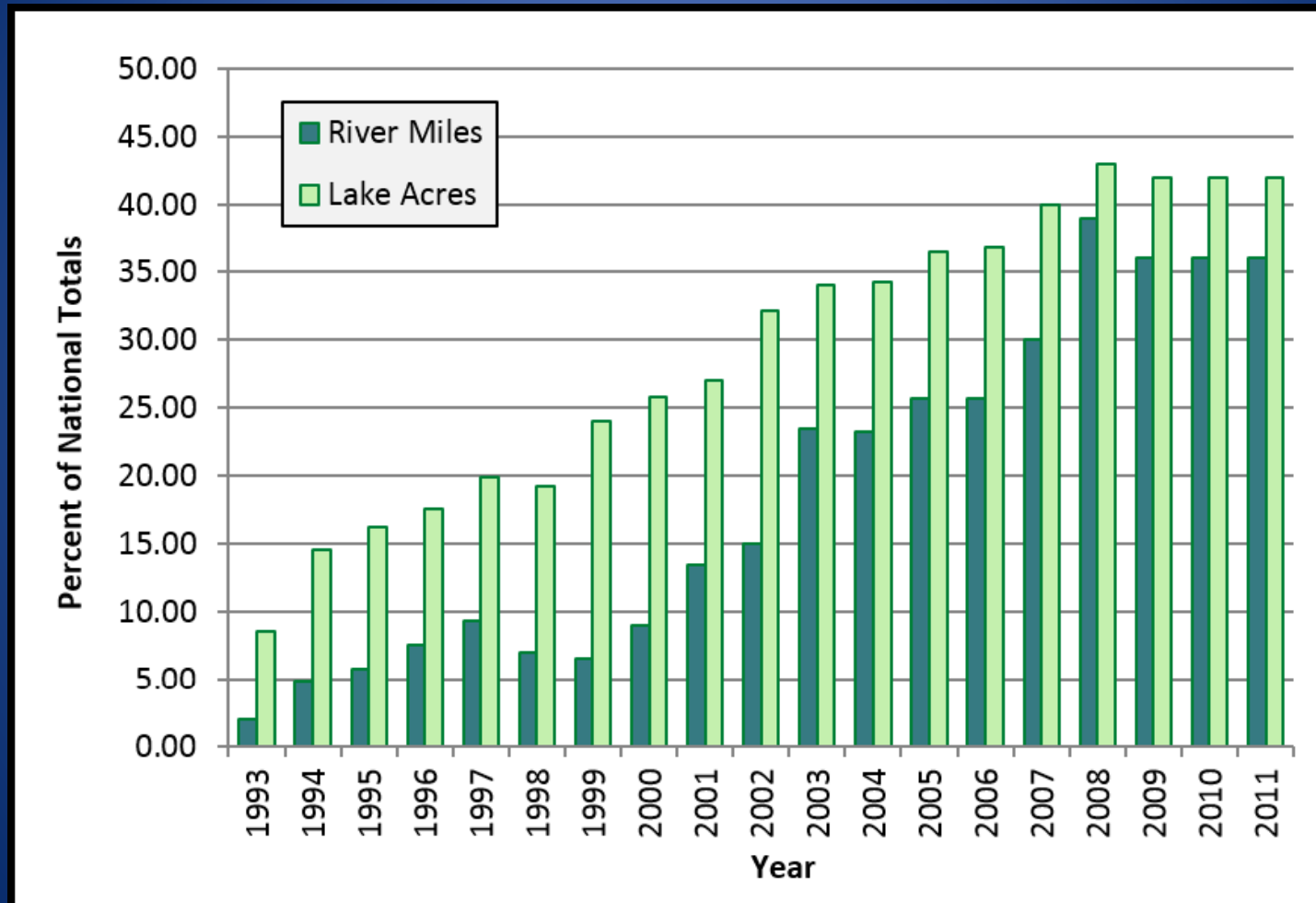
Number of Lake Acres Under Advisory for Various Pollutants, 1993 - 2011



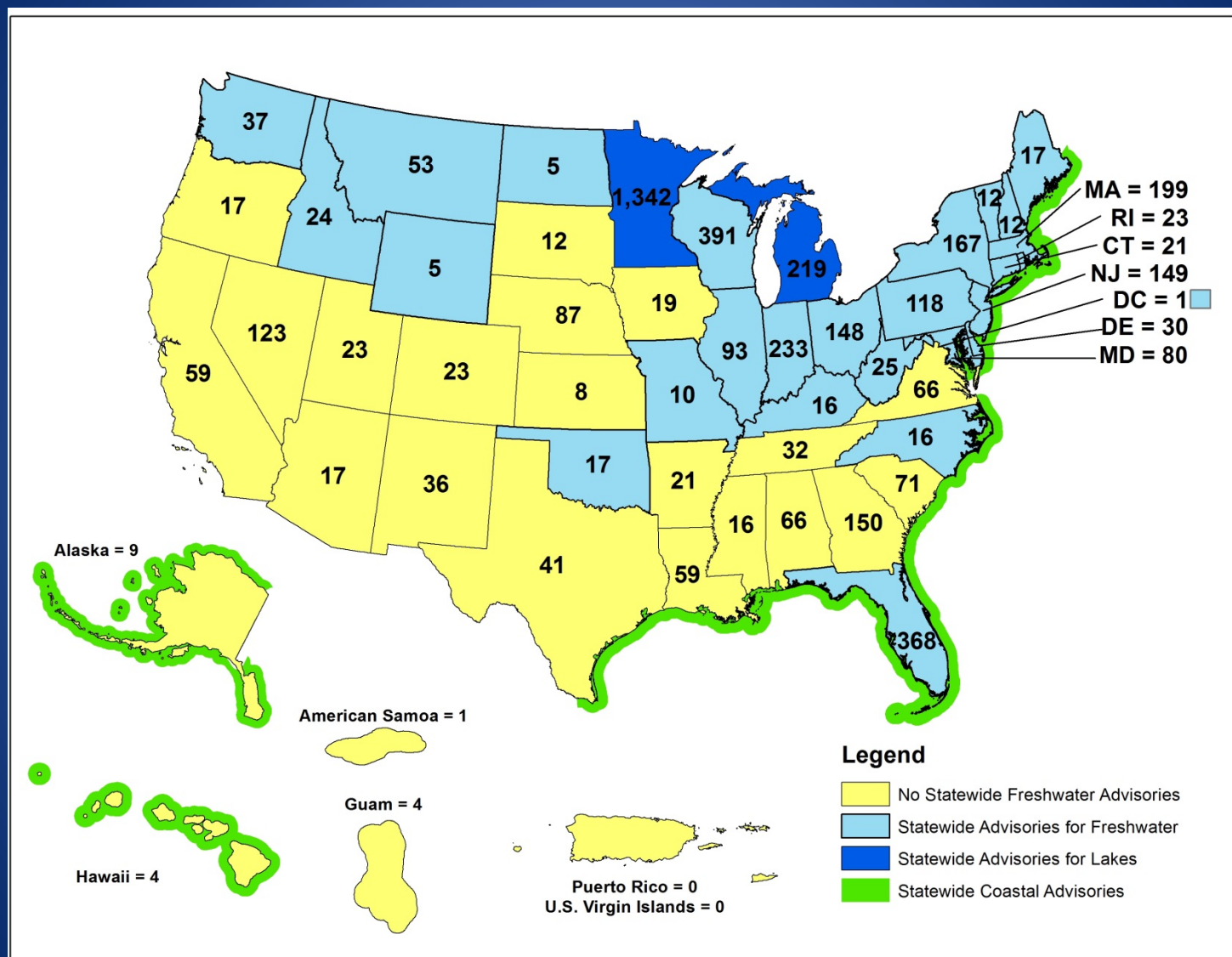
Number of River Miles Under Advisory for Various Pollutants, 1993 - 2011



Percentage of River Miles and Lake Acres Under Advisory, 1993 - 2011



Number of Statewide Advisories in Effect in 2011



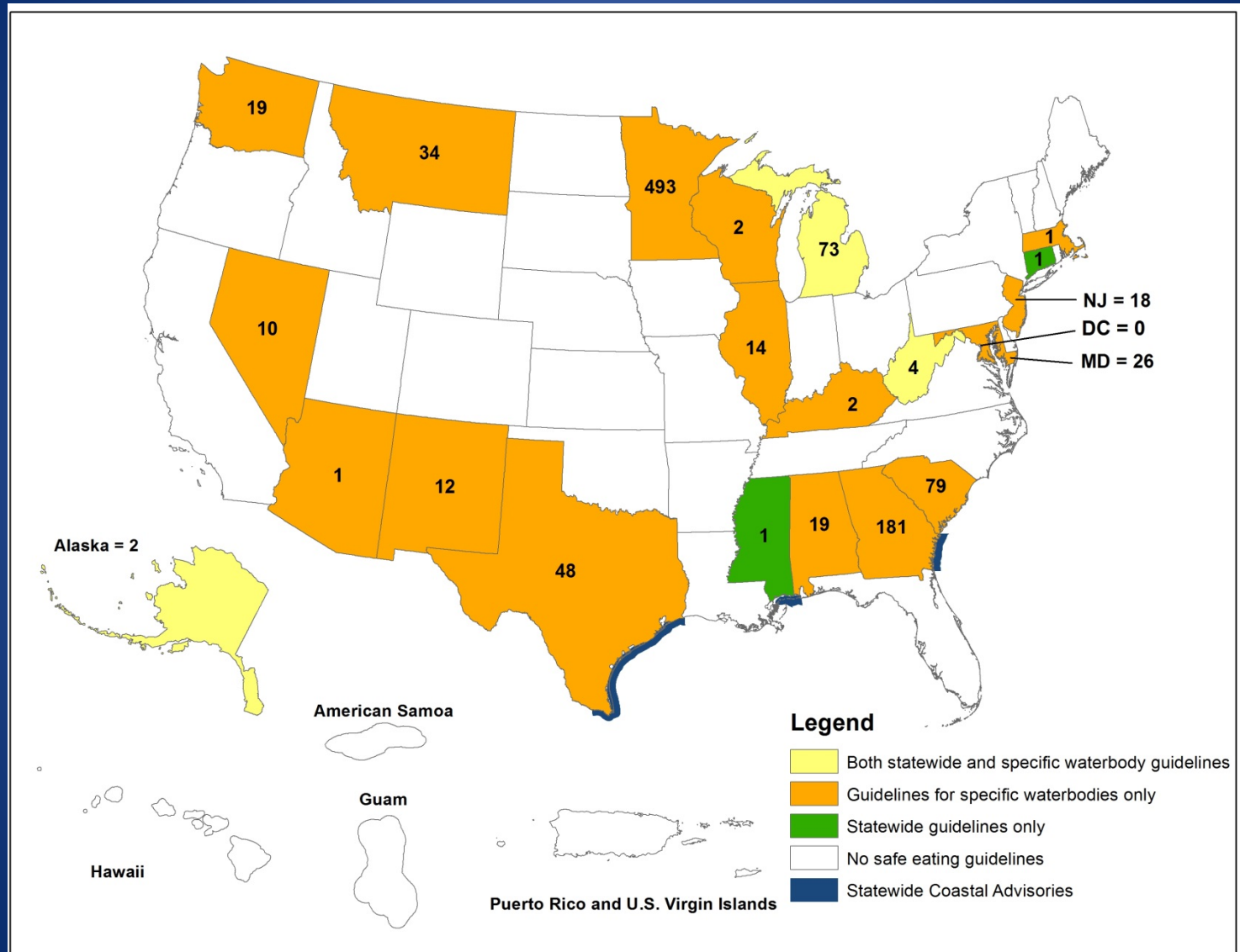
This map illustrates the distribution of mercury advisories across the United States. The map uses a color-coded system to indicate the type of advisory in place for each state or territory. The legend defines the following categories:

- Advisories for specific waterbodies:** Light tan color.
- Statewide freshwater advisory:** Dark brown color.
- Statewide freshwater advisory and additional advisories on specific waterbodies:** Medium brown color.
- No mercury advisories:** White color.
- Statewide Coastal Advisories:** Red outline.

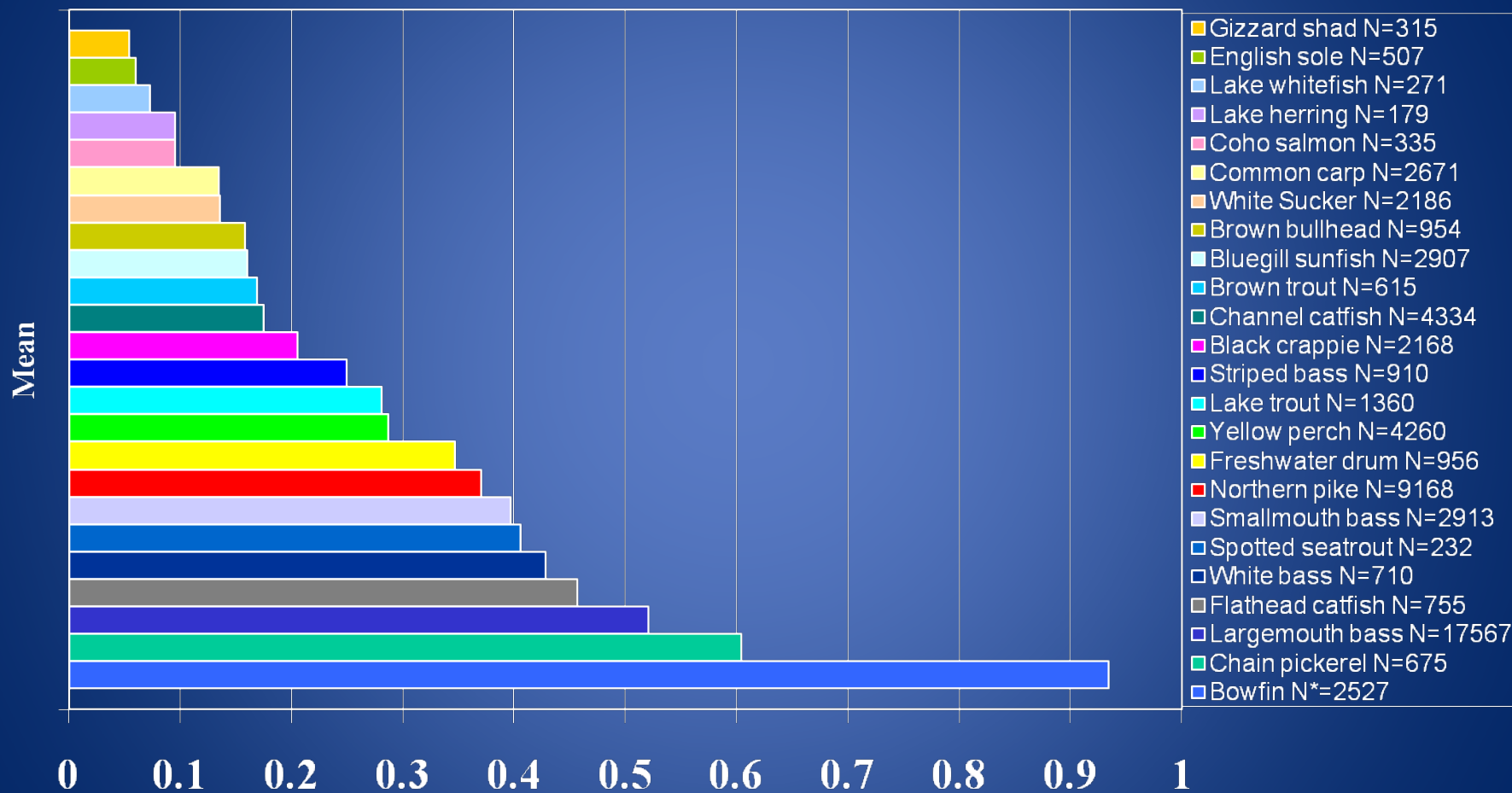
Additional notes on the map include:

- *Lakes:** Indicates a statewide advisory for lakes only.
- Alaska:** Labeled with a red outline.
- Hawaii:** Labeled with a red outline.
- American Samoa:** Labeled with a light tan fill.
- Guam:** Labeled with a light tan fill.
- Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands:** Labeled with a white fill.

Number of Safe Eating Guidelines by State - 2011



National Mean Mercury Concentration in Tissues of Selected Fish Species (all sample types)



*N= number of samples

